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ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF
GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS BY DIVISIONS AND GOVERNMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN THEIR REGIONS AND COUNTRIES AND ON THE PROGRESS MADE IN THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES SINCE THE SIXTH CONFERENCE

Report of Austria

Paper submitted by Austria**

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The AKO held 3 meetings (meeting No. 56 to 58 = two per annum) since the 18th session of the UNGEGN. During these one and a half years the following toponomastical activities were set:

1. Organizational activities

1.1 The AKO in its 57th meeting on 10th April 1996 held elections of the chairperson and the deputy for the next period of five years. The election by secret ballot brought unanimity for I. Hausner as chaiperson as well as for H. Desoye as deputy chairman.

1.2 On the occasion of the 100th meeting of the Permanent Committee on Geographical Names and the millennium of Austria the "Symposium on Geographical Names" was organized by these two institutions, which took place in the rooms of the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, Vienna, 10th-11th October 1996. Within the scope of this scientific conference eleven lectures were held to five subject areas which comprised the whole field of geographical names standardization. The lectures of the symposium are already published and will be presented in detail under item 15 (a)/ 17 (d).
The organizers prepared an exhibition which gave information about the activities and products of various institutions of Austria and Germany dealing with geographical names.
On the second day of the conference a bus excursion took place into the multilingual areas of the Province of Burgenland, where Croatian and Hungarian minorities live together with German speaking inhabitants. An introduction into the problems of multilingual areas and further special information were given by the director of the Burgenländisches Landesarchiv as well as by the mayors of the respective regions.

2. Technical activities

2.1 Reports of the official authorities

2.1.1 The Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen = BEV) reported on its new organizational structure, in force from May, 17th on. The following divisions are dealing with geographical names: Landscape Information, Cartography, and Thematic Cadastre of Real Estate.
The data base Geographic Names (GEONAM) comprises more than 100 000 place names of Austria. It consists of the following object groups: names of settlements, territories, mountains, glaciers, bodies of water. It contains coordinates designating the the geographic location for the topographic model

(the digital model for the landscape) and coordinates related to the placement, direction and extension of the lettering for the cartographic model in various scales (CM50, CM200, CM500).

2.1.2 The Hydrographical Central Office (Hydrographisches Zentralbüro = HZB) reported on the installation of a hydrological management system (HYDAMS). For reasons of these activities the revision of the "Flächenverzeichnis Donaugebiet" (List of the catchment areas of the river Donau in Austria) could not be treated in 1997; the treatment of this river basin will start in the year 1998. The "Flächenverzeichnis Draugebiet" (List of the catchment areas of the river Drau) is available as paper publication and as digital edition.

2.1.3 The Federal Ministry of Defence reported on the foundation of the "Institut für Militärisches Geowesen" (IMG) (Institute of the Military Geosystem) on January, 15th 1997. The main tasks of the IMG extend from the assessment of the requirements up to the provision of geographic information for the Austrian armed forces, also being reflected in the orginazational structure. Once in full force the IMG will staff 31. Austria's joining NATO's "Partnership for Peace" (PfP) programme requires far reaching adaptions in the field of the military geosystem. By introducing new military map series in the scales of 1:50 000 and 1:250 000 the interoperability and compatibility to the other PfP members is guaranteed. In adopting the UTM system, the Austrian armed forces make a substantial contrubution to participating in a common European security structure.

2.1.4 The Burgenländische Nomenklaturkommission (Toponymic Committee of Burgen-land) reported on progress made in the revised edition of the "Burgenländisches Siedlungsnamenbuch" (Historical Place-Name Book of Burgenland"), which is expected to be published in three years.

2.1.5 The Salzburger Ortsnamenkommission (Toponymic Committee of the Province of Salzburg) is an independent provincial office from its foundation on, it is the official advisory board of the provincial government and of non governmental organizations of the province of Salzburg. Its functions are the collection, processing and preparation of all kinds of geographical names in maps, recent and historical documents within the actual and ancient boundaries of the province, and to regulate a fixed spelling of these names for official purpose.
The projects under treatment of the Toponymic Committee are: Registration and preparation of the geographical names in the land register maps 1:2000 and 1:2880. Registration and preparation of the geographical names of the National Park Hohe Tauern (part Salzburg): publication is in preparation (floppy disk).

Registration and preparation of geographical names in historical maps and documents: pilot projects in processing.
The computer program of the toponymic data base was adjusted to that of the Provincial Government; in the course of these changes also UTM coordinates for international purposes were converted.

2.2 Institutions of Science and Research

2.2.1 The "Institut für Österreichische Dialekt- und Namenlexika" (Institute for Austrian Dialect- and Name Dictionaries) of the Austrian Academy of Sciences reported the publication of the 8th instalment of the "Altdeutsches Namenbuch. Die Überlieferung der Ortsnamen in Österreich und Südtirol von den Anfängen bis 1200" (Old German Place-Name Book. The Tradition of the Place-Names in Austria and in the Southern Tyrol from its Beginnings up to 1200), which comprises the place names from Haslau, Groß- to Kirchdorf am Inn; the 9th instalment from Kirchdorf to ? Lihtenstein appeared in December 1997.
The installation of a linguistic place name data base is in progress.

2.2.2 The "Institut für Geographie" (Institute of Geography) of the University of Vienna reported the publication of the book "Kartographie und Namenstandardisierung" (Cartography and Names Standardization), ed. by I. Kretschmer, H. Desoye and K. Kriz (= Wiener Schriften zur Geographie und Kartographie, Band 10), Vienna 1997.
After a several year's interruption the lecture on geographical name studies will start again in the summer semester 1998.

2.2.3 The "Institut für Germanistik" (Institute of German Language) of the University of Vienna reported on two publications: Historisches Ortsnamenbuch von Oberösterreich, Band 4: Die Ortsnamen des Politischen Bezirkes Vöcklabruck (südliches Hausruckviertel) (Historical Place-Name Book of Upper Austria, vol. 4: The Place-Names of the Political District Vöcklabruck (southern Hausruckviertel), by R. Reutner, H. Bito and P. Wiesinger. Vienna 1997.
Eberhard Kranzmayer, Kleine namenkundliche Schriften (1929-1972), anläßlich seines 100. Geburtstages am 15. Mai 1997 gesammelt und herausgegeben von Maria Hornung. (Eberhard Kranzmayer, Short onomastic papers 1929-1972 , to celebrate his 100th birthday on May, 15th 1997, collected and edited by Maria Hornung). Vienna 1997. (= Schriften zur diachronen Sprachwissenschaft 5).
The scientific symposium "Probleme der oberdeutschen Dialektologie und Namenkunde 22.-23. Mai 1997" (Problems of the High German dialects and onomastics) took place on May, 22nd and 23rd 1997 in Vienna, the lectures held in this conference will probably be published in 1998.

2.3 Reports on projects initiated by the AKO itself

2.3.1 The Arbeitsgruppe Ortsnamendatenbanken (Working Group on Toponymic Data Bases) since the 18th session of the UNGEGN made contact with the Österreichische Raumordnungskonferenz (Austrian Conference of Spatial Planning = ÖROK) which acts as a link between federal, provincial and commune matters concerning spatial questions. The working group expects support in the Austrian-wide information of the communes on standardized place names as existing in the Austrian Map 1:50 000 and in the Gazetteer 1991 (of Austria).

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2.3.2 The Arbeitsgruppe: Rechtschreibreform und geographische Namen (Working Group: Orthographic Reform and Geographical Names), chaired by O. Back, discussed in three sessions the consequences of the reform on the spelling of geographical names in general and of the categories of geographical names those concerned in particular. See also WP under item 5 (b).

2.3.3 The Arbeitsgruppe Landschaftsnamen (Working Group on Landscape Names) reported, that the names were collected on the basis of the map 1:500 000 (J. Breu's Gazetteer of Geographical Names) with several completions, such as school atlasses, and gazetteer of communes. The members of this working group are H. D. Pohl and R. Stani Fertl. The main entries will be defined as geographical objects as to kind of feature, geographical longitude and latitude, situation; if it is considered necessary name variants will be given. The results will be published as an own number of the series "Österreichische Namenforschung" (Austrian Onomastic Studies), ed. by H. D. Pohl, and should be available in 1998.

2.4. International Cooperations and Connections

2.4.1 The AKO continues its cooperation with the other German speaking countries within the StAGN

2.4.2 Ms. Isolde Hausner has been elected by the general assembly of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences (ICOS) in August 1996 in Aberdeen as member of the board of directors.